Mac OS 9 FAQ

Q. What is Mac OS 9?

A. Mac OS 9 is the most Internet-savvy release yet of the Macintosh system software. With nine Internet power tools and more than 50 new features, Mac OS 9 makes your Macintosh—and the Internet—more powerful than ever.

Q. How does Mac OS 9 fit into Apple's operating system strategy?

A. With the introduction of Mac OS 9, Apple continues to improve today's Mac OS while also developing a significant leap in system technologies with Mac OS X, to be introduced early next year. Mac OS X will feature preemptive multitasking, memory protection, and advanced virtual memory, and will be fully optimized for Apple's PowerPC G3– and G4–based computers.

Q. What is the target market for Mac OS 9?

A. Mac OS 9 has a wealth of features that will allow both novice and advanced users to take full advantage of their Macintosh computer—and the Internet. In addition, Mac OS 9 includes features that will specifically appeal to customers in each of Apple's target markets—consumer, education, and design and publishing.

Q. What are the key features of Mac OS 9?

A. Mac OS 9 has over 50 new features including nine Internet power tools:

Sherlock 2: Your search detective and personal shopper on the Internet. Sherlock 2 is the easiest way to find people, news, and just about anything. Shop for books and music, and search auction sites. Find the best prices—even check on product availability.

Multiple Users: Mac OS 9 lets you personalize your Mac—remembering your bookmarks and e-mail accounts, as well as your browser, desktop, application, and game settings. Each user's preferences and files are securely stored for privacy and convenience.

Voiceprint Password: Your voice is your password to your Mac, your important information, and the Internet. When you log in, Mac OS 9 analyzes your voice to prevent others from pretending they're you.

Keychain: Your personal Keychain securely stores all of your user IDs and passwords, giving you one password for everything. Your voiceprint or typed password unlocks them all.

Auto Updating: Mac OS 9 delivers the latest software updates and system enhancements from Apple—automatically, over the Internet.

Encryption: Protect all your important information and send files securely across the Internet to other Mac OS 9 users.

File Sharing over the Internet: Apple's easy-to-use File Sharing now works over the Internet so you can share files, folders, and disks with any Macintosh user.

AppleScript over TCP/IP: Use AppleScript across the Internet to automate tasks with one or more computers.

Network Browser: The Internet is now your personal global network. Find servers as easily as printers. Browse file servers, FTP servers, web servers, and other networks.

Mac OS 9 also features:

Design and publishing enhancements: Mac OS 9 includes ColorSync 3.0, FontSync, improved printing, support for complex workflows over the web using AppleScript, and support for files up to 2 terabytes.

Game technologies: Integrated OpenGL for the Macintosh and Game Sprockets make Mac gaming titles more real, more powerful, and more fun.

And more: Fully integrated language support to input, edit, display, and print any language. Network administration and a log-in panel that work with Macintosh Manager in Mac OS X Server provide excellent tools for educators. Enhanced speech recognition that makes accessing your favorite web page or finding the latest news with Sherlock 2 easy—just ask.

Q. Can I share files encrypted with Mac OS 9 with any user?

A. Previous versions of the Mac OS cannot open files encrypted with the Encrypt command in Mac OS 9. However, third-party utilities may provide this capability in the future. Of course, files can be opened only when the correct password is provided.

Q. Is any other software included with Mac OS 9?

A. Yes. Mac OS 9 includes many Apple software products, including QuickTime 4, Apple Remote Access 3.5, Network Assistant 4.0.1, Language Kits, FontSync, and ColorSync 3. Mac OS 9 also includes great software from third-party developers, including Aladdin StuffIt Expander, Aladdin DropStuff, America Online 4.0, Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.5, Microsoft Outlook Express 4.5, Netscape Communicator 4.5, and Palm Desktop and HotSync.

Q. Is Mac OS 9 easy to install?

A. Customers can get up and running with Mac OS 9 in less than 15 minutes. The software takes care of the entire installation process—it will check for problems, upgrade the system, and get users set up in no time.

Q. How much does Mac OS 9 cost?

A. The suggested retail price for Mac OS 9 is US$99.

Q. Is there a special upgrade price?

A. Yes, there is a $20 rebate for owners of Mac OS 8.5, 8.5.1, or 8.6 who purchase the Mac OS 9 retail package. This is a limited-time offer and the order form is available in the qualifying retail packages. In addition, customers who have purchased a Macintosh computer with Mac OS 8.6 on or after October 5, 1999, the official introduction date of Mac OS 9, will be able to upgrade to Mac OS 9 for US$19.95. Details and the order form will be available on the Apple web site at www.apple.com/macos/uptodate.

Q. When will Mac OS 9 be available for purchase?

A. Mac OS 9 is expected to be on store shelves by October 23, 1999, in the U.S. Mac OS 9 will be available in Europe, Asia, and Japan the first week of November.

Q. Where will Mac OS 9 be available?

A. Mac OS 9 will be available wherever Apple products are sold, including authorized Apple resellers, Apple's online store (www.apple.com), and through direct sales to education and business customers.

Q. What are the system requirements for Mac OS 9?

A. Mac OS 9 requires an Apple Mac OS–based computer with a PowerPC processor and 32MB of physical RAM, with virtual memory set to at least 40MB.

Q. Why should users upgrade if they are not currently having problems with their systems?

A. Mac OS 9 delivers both new and improved features that any user will find beneficial. Both novice and advanced users will find that the new features enhance their Internet experience, as well as make general computing more efficient.

Q. Will new Apple computers have Mac OS 9 installed?

A. Apple plans to begin shipping computers with Mac OS 9 installed in the weeks following introduction.

Q. Will my applications work with Mac OS 9?

A. The vast majority of software will be compatible with Mac OS 9.

Q. Where can I find more information about Mac OS 9?

A. You can find more information about Mac OS 9 at www.apple.com.

For More Information

For more information about Apple's new software, visit www.apple.com/products.

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